THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Though India has been consistently opposing the use of trade distorting subsidies which have a negative effect on trade, particularly, for agricutural exports from developing countries, India has also been emphasising the need to provide a certain degree of flexibility to developing countries especially to large agrarian economies like India, in providing subsidies or domestic support to take care of their food security, poverty alleviation and rural employment concerns.

During the mandated negotiation under Agreement on Agriculture, it is proposed to press for this demand.

WTO Meeting

5177. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discuss, in the next WTO meeting, different issues in the interest of the country, particularly in helping the exports of Indian products both industrial and agricultural; and

(b) how do Government plan to have clear investment and competition policy quite different from such policy of the development countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Taking up issues in the interest of the country, particularly with a view to helping the export of Indian products, will continue to be a very important objective that will be pursued in our preparation for and participation in WTO meetings.

(b) The Government's investment policy is designed to sub-serve our national interests and requirements. As regard competition policy, Government has constituted a High Level Committee on Competition Policy and Law which is expected to submit its report by 31.5.2000.

New Exim Policy

5178. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on new Exim Policy;

(b) Whether it will have some impact on small-scale industries and agriculture;